# Carex lanuginosa - Calamagrostis stricta Herbaceous Vegetation

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| COMMON NAME | Woolly Sedge - Bluejoint Sp. Herbaceous Vegetation |
| SYNONYM | Bluejoint - Woolly Sedge Wet Meadow |
| PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS | Herbaceous (V) |
| PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS | Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A) |
| PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP | Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5) |
| PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP | Natural/semi-natural (V.A.5.N) |
| FORMATION | Temporarily flooded temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.j) |
| ALLIANCE | *Carex lanuginosa* Temporarily Flooded Herbaceous Alliance |

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Palustrine

RANGE
*Globally*
This community is found in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, western Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa.

*Mount Rushmore National Memorial*
Wetlands were found at widely-scattered locations in the west half of the study area (west of Mt. Rushmore). This community was found in Starling Basin in the Memorial west of Mount Rushmore.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION
*Globally*
This community occurs on level ground in shallow depressions and other lowlands on poorly drained sandy, loamy, or silty clay soils. Standing water can be present for a few to several weeks a year (Dix and Smeins 1967, Smeins and Olsen 1970). Soil pH is circumneutral to somewhat alkaline and organic content can be moderately high.

*Mount Rushmore National Memorial*
This community was found in a drainage bottoms.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES
*Globally*

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Calamagrostis stricta, Carex lanuginosa, Carex sartwellii, Juncus balticus* |

*Mount Rushmore National Memorial*

| Stratum | Species |
|---|---|
| Herbaceous | *Calamagrostis stricta, Poa palustris, Scirpus microcarpus* |

DIAGNOSTIC SPECIES
*Globally*
*Carex lanuginosa, Calamagrostis stricta*

*Mount Rushmore National Memorial*
*Calamagrostis stricta*

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

*Globally*

The vegetation of this community provides approximately 100% cover and the dominant vegetation is graminoids, typically 0.3-1.0 m tall. Forbs can be common; they had 25% relative cover in the stands studied by Nelson et al. (1981), but shrubs are very rare. The most abundant species are *Calamagrostis stricta, Carex lanuginosa, C. sartwellii, Anemone canadensis, Apocynum cannabinum, Aster lanceolatus, Eleocharis compressa, Juncus balticus, Phalaris arundinacea, Polygonum amphibium*, and *Scirpus americanus. Carex buxbaumii* can be common, except in North Dakota.

*Mount Rushmore National Memorial*

A single stand of this vegetation type was sampled, in the drainage west of Mt. Rushmore (Starling Basin). This is an area of old beaver ponds undergoing succession, and the vegetation is a complex of types arranged on an environmental gradient from wet to dry. Included are open water, stands of *Typha latifolia* and graminoid-dominated meadow. Common meadow species include *Scirpus microcarpus, Calamagrostis stricta*, and *Poa palustris.* In drier areas, understory species from adjacent *Betula papyrifera / Corylus cornuta* Forest become common, including *Heracleum sphondylium, Lysimachia ciliata, Osmorhiza* sp., and *Galium triflorum*.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES Information not available.

CONSERVATION RANK G?

RANK JUSTIFICATION

DATABASE CODE CEGL002254

COMMENTS

*Mount Rushmore National Memorial*

The small size and steep environmental gradient make linking the single stand of this type to the national classification somewhat difficult. Further comparison with wetlands found in the Black Hills may result in a re-assignment of the global name.

REFERENCES

Dix, R. L. and F. E. Smeins. 1967. The prairie, meadow, and marsh vegetation of Nelson County, North Dakota. Canadian Journal of Botany 45:21-58.

Nelson, W. T., W. T. Barker, and Harold Goetz. 1981. Habitat type classification of grasslands of Sheyenne National Grassland of southeastern North Dakota. Cooperative agreement No RM-80-139-CA.

Smeins, F. E. and D. E. Olsen. 1979. Species composition and production of a native northwestern Minnesota tall grass prairie. American Midland Naturalist 84(2):398-410.